



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INTERVENTION DEADLINE SET IN STAFF COMPLAINT SEEKING REDUCTION IN PIPELINE CHARGES FOR NATURAL GAS CUSTOMERS

JEFFERSON CITY---On March 31, 2006, the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission filed a complaint alleging Missouri Pipeline Company (MPC) and Missouri Gas Company (MGC) rates are excessive and should be cut. Staff is seeking to reduce current rates by approximately \$3.8 million (35%) annually.

The rates for transporting natural gas by MPC and/or MGC are passed on to consumers of AmerenUE in the service areas of Wentzville, Rolla, Salem and Owensville; all of Laclede Gas Company customers; the municipal natural gas systems of St. Robert, Cuba, St. James and Waynesville; and Fort Leonard Wood.

The Staff complaint also addresses operational issues, alleging that affiliated companies have asserted control over MPC and MGC property and operations, and that these affiliates should therefore be under Commission jurisdiction. Staff is seeking Commission approval to go to court to seek monetary penalties for these alleged violations.

The Commission has affiliate transaction rules that are designed to protect utility ratepayers from paying for costs over and above the amount that would take place in an arms length transaction.

Applications to intervene and participate in this case must be filed on or before **May 12, 2006**, with the Secretary of the Missouri Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102. Copies of the application should be sent to: Thomas R. Schwarz, Jr., Lera Shemwell and Shelley E. Syler, Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102; Missouri Pipeline Company, LLC; Missouri Gas Company, LLC; Omega Pipeline Company, LLC; Mogas Energy, LLC; United Pipeline Systems, Inc.; and Gateway Pipeline Company, LLC, 110 Algana Court, St. Peters, Missouri 63376, attention Mr. David Ries; Mr. Tino Monaldo, Esquire, 5425 Martindale, Suite 100, Shawnee, Kansas 66218; Mr. David Ries, 6137 Colorow Dr., Morrison, Colorado 80465; and the Office of the Public Counsel, P.O. Box 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

The Office of the Public Counsel is a separate state agency which represents the general public in matters before the Commission. Individual citizens wishing to comment should contact either the Office of the Public Counsel (P.O. Box 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, telephone 573-751-4857) or the Public Service Commission Staff (P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, telephone 1-800-392-4211).